

Atlantic Ocean blue shark and swordfish - surface longline (FIP-BLUES)

Overview

FIP Description

The EU surface longline fleet has been concentrating efforts on the implementation of national and regional strategies for the conservation of their target species including measures such as minimizing incidental catches, collaborating with the scientific community, and finning bans.

In 2014, an MSC pre-assessment was conducted for all swordfish and blue shark stocks, and in 2016, the fishery was close to meeting the MSC standard for north and south Atlantic swordfish. Focus on improvements for all the fleet operations moved towards promoting the creation of a FIP for all swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) and blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) stocks for the North and South Atlantic Ocean, the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean.

The industry community recently created the ANECTEAM association to work together with the EU surface longline fleet. ANECTEAM is focused on getting visibility and recognition from the consumers, raising public and environmental NGO opinions about efforts to boost sustainability, encouraging distribution chains to purchase the fishery's products, and increasing recognition at the international level of a sustainable industry and fleet that is allowed to trade in fins and shark meat. This FIP represents 4 shipowners' associations (90 % catches EU fleet), 14 supply chain companies (80 % UE), and 160 fishing vessels (95% of EU fishing vessels in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans).

Due to their migratory nature and extensive distribution throughout several oceans, the management of swordfish and blue shark is carried out internationally by RFMOs (ICCAT, IOTC, IATTC, and WCPFC) through a system of catch totals (TAC)

Based on the MSC pre-assessment for the North and South Atlantic Spanish longline fishery in 2014 and a MSC full assessment in 2016 **for swordfish**, previously conducted, the scoring was updated in 2019 **following the last MSC standard 2018**; a **new scoring was also carried out for blue shark according to last ICCAT assessment for BSH conducted in 2015 -edited in 2017- and mako shark for Principe 2 in 2017** (see full information in the **Scoping Doc**). A number of Performance Indicators (Pis) were scored so that the fishery would fail under a full MSC assessment (SG <60) and required conditions for other PIs (SG 60-79). The general

objective is to increase the PIs (scored <60 or 60-79) to SG>80.

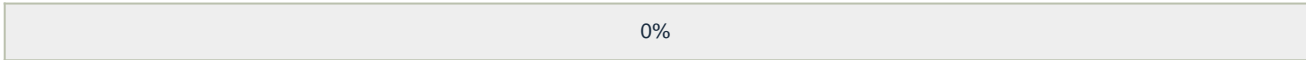
The FIP Blues has been originally designed to be implemented in three oceans: Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian. The present FIP will start by implementing the actions in the Atlantic ocean since the full MSC Assessment was focused on these fisheries, both north and south stocks. At the same time, in the subsequent years after the beginning of the tasks for the Atlantic, we will develop the Work Plan Action for the other oceans' swordfish and blue shark fisheries.

How is this FIP Doing?

Current Status:



Actions Progress This shows the proportion of actions in the workplan that the FIP has completed.



Actions Overview This shows the proportion of actions that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
100%	0%	0%	0%

Red Indicator Progress This shows the proportion of actions specifically addressing red indicators that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started. This helps users understand the progress the FIP is making on the biggest challenges in the fishery.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
100%	0%	0%	0%

FIP Progress Rating



FIP Objective(s)

To address all of the fishery's environmental challenges necessary to achieve a level of performance consistent with an unconditional pass of the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard for target species **blue shark** (*Prionace glauca*) and **swordfish** (*Xiphias gladius*) in **Atlantic Ocean** (North and South stocks) by **December 2024**.

FIP Type

Comprehensive

FIP Stage

Stage 4: Improvements in Fishing Practices or Fishery Management

Start and Projected End Dates

October, 2019 -

December, 2024

Species**Common Name**

Swordfish

Scientific Name

Xiphias gladius

[Buying Guide Link Image](#)

[Swordfish](#)

[Buying Guide](#)

Common Name

Blue Shark

Scientific Name

Prionace glauca

Gear Type

[Longline](#)

Location**FAO Major Fishing Area**

[Area 21 \(Atlantic, Northwest\)](#)

[Area 27 \(Atlantic, Northeast\)](#)

[Area 31 \(Atlantic, Western Central\)](#)

[Area 34 \(Atlantic, Eastern Central\)](#)

[Area 41 \(Atlantic, Southwest\)](#)

[Area 47 \(Atlantic, Southeast\)](#)

Exclusive Economic Zones

Country

European Union

Geographic Scope

Specific areas

Country

Cabo Verde

Geographic Scope

Limited spatially and temporally

Country

Mauritania

Geographic Scope

Limited spatially and temporally

Country

Guinea-Bissau

Geographic Scope

Limited spatially and temporally

Country

Côte d'Ivoire

Geographic Scope

Limited spatially and temporally

Country

Sao Tome and Principe

Geographic Scope

Limited spatially and temporally

Country

Liberia

Geographic Scope

Limited spatially and temporally, very occasionally

Country

Senegal

Geographic Scope

Limited spatially and temporally

Country Flag of Vessel

Spain

Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO)

ICCAT

High Seas Name

Atlantic Ocean

Estimated Total FIP Landings

36357 metric tons

FIP Leads

Organization Name

ANECTEAM (Asociación Nacional de Empresas Comercializadoras y Transformadores de Especies Altamente Migratorias)

Organization Type

Industry

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[ANECTEAM and Project Promoters \(FIP BLUES\)](#)